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1. Q. Do the stated requirements for the Soviet "aspirant" correspond to the US "bachelor", the Soviet "kandidat" with the US "master"; and the Soviet "doktor" with the US "doctor"? If not, with which US degrees are the Soviet stated requirements most nearly equivalent, and what are the major deviations from the pattern?
 - A. Soviet academic degrees do not correspond with US academic degrees, but do parallel them. Parenthetically, they are more similar to US degrees than European degrees. "Aspirant" has two senses: The student lecturer aspiring to be the recipient of the degree of "aspirant" and the "aspirant" himself. The "aspirant" is one who has completed the equivalent to the studies involved in obtaining a US "BA" degree, has done some graduate study (on US standards), and is teaching in his field. In studies completed he has not performed the research of the US "MA", but, in experience and familiarity with his subject, he is probably more qualified than the "MA" because he is not only pursuing his studies but has the experience of his lecturing. According to Soviet Law, the "aspirant" is the basic form of preparation for professional teaching and scholarly research. The US "MA" does not necessarily concern the aspect of teaching. The "aspirant" can be obtained only in those universities which have in their employ highly qualified professors equipped with the knowledge for bestowing this degree. A man cannot be accepted for the "aspirant" unless he is under 40 years of age, and in completing his higher education has shown ability for pedagogical and research activities. The "aspirant" must spend three years in preparation for receiving this degree. I would call him an aspirant for the degree of "aspirant". During this three year period, he is assigned to a professor (not necessarily a "kandidat") who leads him into independent scholarly research. At the end of the three year period he must pass a special examination and defend the dissertation that he has prepared. The period of lecturing is usually confined to the last two years of this three year period. After the first year, the "aspirant" is a member of the faculty of the university. A very important point in his original selection is the consideration that he shall be a prospective teacher at the university. The Soviet Law of 1944 is the

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judicial basis for the Degree of "aspirant".

2. Q. Is the average holder of the Soviet degree of "kandidat" essentially equal in experience, formal training, knowledge, and research achievement to the US "master's" degree recipient or to the holder of a US doctorate? If equivalent to neither, about where between the two US degrees would the Soviet "kandidat" be properly placed?
 - A. Between the time of the Soviet Revolution and 1937 it was impossible to confer the degree of "kandidat" or "doktor". Under the Imperial Government of Russia these degrees were less prevalent than they are today. Under the Soviet basic law of 1937 these degrees can be conferred. For a degree of "kandidat" the scholar must complete the period of training as an "aspirant", receive this degree, and defend the dissertation. The length of study for the "kandidat" is unspecified, but is for more than the US PhD. The "kandidat's" dissertation must show considerable independent work and include a discussion of his complete field, or a theoretical generalization on scholarly research in his field, or a scholarly, well-founded presentation of new problems in his field. His dissertation must also show considerable scholarly interest. A "kandidat" can be equated only to a US full professor of long standing. Pedagogical experience is a determining factor for the degree of "kandidat".
3. Q. If the Soviet "kandidat" is judged to be essentially equivalent to the US doctorate, then with approximately how prominent and experienced a US scientist would the Soviet "doktor" be equivalent?
 - A. In the US there is no equation to the Soviet "doktor" who are members of the various academies. The "doktor" carries with it an academic position and a job. Even a man of the scholarly distinction of Vishinsky might not necessarily be a "doktor" if he did not hold his academic position.

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